

designed to direct pulses of solvent along and up the ramp **[(19)]**, and a discharge point **[(18)]** for fuel hulls disposed at an upper region of the ramp characterised in that the ramp **[(19)]** is made out of flat blades **[(6)]** and the perforations **[(7)]** of the ramp **[(19)]** comprise inclined slits formed between the blades **[(6)]**.

✓ In Claim 2, line 1, please delete "(19)".

✓ In Claim 3, line 1, please delete "or claim 2" and "(1)".

A2
4. (Amended) An apparatus of claim 1 **[any of claims 1 to 3]** in which the gradient of the spiral is between 1 and 30 degrees.

A3
6. (Amended) An apparatus of claim 1 **[any of claims 1 to 5]** in which the gradient of the spiral in an upper zone thereof is greater than in a lower zone.

✓ In Claim 8, line 1, please delete "or claim 7".

A4
9. (Amended) An apparatus of claim 1 in which the blades **[(6)]** are made in the form of a trapezium and are fastened by the smaller end to a central blade support within the process chamber **[(1)]**.

✓ In Claim 10, line 1, please delete "(6)".

A5
12. (Amended) An apparatus of claim 1 in which the pulsation member **[(9)]** comprises a pulsation chamber disposed centrally within the process chamber **[(1)]**.

✓ In Claim 13, line 2, please delete "(1)".

Please cancel Claim 14.

15. (Amended) An apparatus for the treatment of solid articles by liquid, comprising a container having an outer side wall of circular cross section, a spiral ramp **[(19)]** located in the container, and a pulsator **[(9)]** communicating with a lower part of the container, and also pipe connections for feeding in and removing pieces of fuel pin, solution and gas, characterised in that the ramp **[(19)]** is made up of flat blades **[(6)]** placed one after another along the spiral and forming between one another inclined slit nozzles and the perforations **[(7)]** of the ramp comprise inclined slits between the blades **[(6)]**.

18. (Amended) An apparatus of claim 15 **[any of claims 15 to 17]** in which the angle between the plane of the blades and the horizontal plane is between 15 and 60 degrees.

19. (Amended) An apparatus of claim 15 **[any of claims 15 to 18]** in which the gradient of the spiral in an upper zone thereof is greater than in a lower zone.

20. (Amended) An apparatus of claim 15 **[any of claims 15 to 19]** in which the blades **[(6)]** are made in the form of a trapezium and are fastened by the smaller end to a central blade support within the process chamber **[(1)]**.

21. (Amended) An apparatus of claim 15 **[any of claims 15 to 20]** in which the average width of the blades is between 3 and 5 times the distances between them.